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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: A-70610/RFT

4/1/02  
3/28/02

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

NARANG *et al.*

Serial No. 09/872,770

Filed: June 01, 2001

For: POLYMER COMPOSITION

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including listed enclosures, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC-20231 on January 31, 2002

Signed: Wendy Wilson

Wendy Wilson

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination, please make the following amendments to the claims.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

A<sup>1</sup>  
1. A polymer membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunit, or (ii) the polymer membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.

Please add the following new claims:

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A  
--24. (New) A method for forming a polymer membrane suitable for use in a membrane electrode assembly comprising treating a polymer membrane with sulfuric acid at room temperature wherein said polymer membrane comprises a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunit, or (ii) the polymer membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.